

MAKING AND MARKETING HAY FOR THE HORSE INDUSTRY

Todd Clark

Clark Family Farms
Fayette County Horse Producer
Lexington, KY

Todd Clark is a first-generation farmer in Lexington, Kentucky raising products for global commodity markets and local food and equine markets. Todd's farm consists of both owned acres (84) and rented/shared/custom harvested acres (925). The focus of the farming operation is forages, with burley tobacco being the only other crop on the farm. Animals are utilized first and foremost for pasture harvesting. Chicken, Turkey, Sheep, and Beef are all rotated on pasture to maximum quality, quantity, and profitability. Excess forages such as alfalfa mixes and mixed grasses are made into horse hay for the local equine market. Most of the equine hay is marketed in small square bales weighing 50 lbs. or less with some 4'x6' round bales produced for this same group of buyers. The horse farms of central Kentucky provide a viable market for the farms excess forages while providing a necessary return on investment.